managerial incompetence etc. As such, it is not possible to indicate the loss suffered by farmers or the loss of production of sugar.

New Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh

†2084. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to set up new sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of new sugar mills proposed to be set up in current financial year in the State;

(c) whether some sugar mills already set up in the State have become sick;

(d) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken for their revival?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central Government do not set up sugar mills in any part of the Country. The sugar industry has been delicensed with effect from 11.09.98. The entrepreneurs are free to set up sugar mills as per techno-economic viability of their project maintaining a distance of 15 Kms. from the existing sugar factories;

(c) and (d) Sugar Mills remain closed or become sick from time to time for variety of factors, such as, inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size, old age, bad condition of plant and machinery, technical and managerial incompetence etc.

(e) It is responsibility of the entrepreneurs to take steps to reopen/ revive the closed sugar mils. The sick mills belonging to private and public sectors are covered under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). Such sugar mills are required to make reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) whenever their accumulated losses become equal to or more than the net worth. If the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

by the BIFR provide for any relief/concession from this Ministry, the scheme is considered as per the existing guidelines.

As regards the cooperative sugar mills a Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food & Public Distribution) to consider the proposals of the potentially viable sick mills of this sector.

The Central Government has provided a loan of Rs. 20.89 crores to 3 sick mills for modernization and rehabilitation.

Replacement of products under warranty

2085. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that in the name of 'Warranty' the manufacturers offer only services of repairing of a bad product even if it is very new;

(b) whether Government would make it compulsory to replace the product within a certain time, if the product is found to be a faulty piece; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interest of consumers in this age of growing consumerism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Task force on Tigers in Sariska

2086. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force appointed by Government to study the tiger crisis in Sariska forest in Rajasthan has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and